

Appl. No. : 10/032,996
Filed : December 27, 2001

REMARKS

To expedite the resolution of the above-captioned case under final rejection, Applicants file this amendment after final rejection, but before jurisdiction has passed to the Board (*see* M.P.E.P. §§ 1207, 1210).

Applicants amend Claims 27 and 48 to delete elements (b)-(d) and cancel Claims 29-31, 35 and 37-47 without prejudice to, or disclaimer of, the subject matter contained therein. Applicants maintain that the cancellation of a claim makes no admission as to its patentability and reserve the right to pursue the subject matter of the cancelled claim in this or any other patent application. Applicants respectfully submit that the amendment conforms to 37 C.F.R. § 1.116 as it places the claims in better form for appeal. The amendment does not necessitate a new search, does not raise an issue of new matter, does not present additional claims without canceling a corresponding number of finally rejected claims, and does not otherwise introduce new issues (*see* M.P.E.P. § 1207). Therefore Applicants respectfully request that the amendment be entered for purposes of appeal.

Applicants invite the Examiner to call the undersigned if any issues may be resolved by telephone.

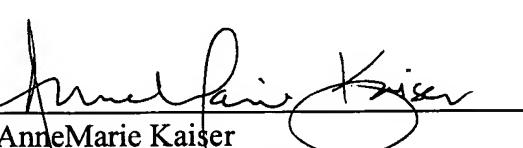
Please charge any additional fees, including any fees for additional extension of time, or credit overpayment to Deposit Account No. 11-1410.

Respectfully submitted,

KNOBBE, MARTENS, OLSON & BEAR, LLP

Dated: Sept. 21, 2005

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